

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, May 4, 1998.

**Jennifer J. Johnson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-12191 Filed 5-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Notice of Proposals to Engage in Permissible Nonbanking Activities or to Acquire Companies that are Engaged in Permissible Nonbanking Activities

The companies listed in this notice have given notice under section 4 of the Bank Holding Company Act (12 U.S.C. 1843) (BHC Act) and Regulation Y, (12 CFR Part 225) to engage *de novo*, or to acquire or control voting securities or assets of a company, including the companies listed below, that engages either directly or through a subsidiary or other company, in a nonbanking activity that is listed in § 225.28 of Regulation Y (12 CFR 225.28) or that the Board has determined by Order to be closely related to banking and permissible for bank holding companies. Unless otherwise noted, these activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Each notice is available for inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The notice also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the question whether the proposal complies with the standards of section 4 of the BHC Act.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding the applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than May 22, 1998.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta**  
(Lois Berthaume, Vice President) 104 Marietta Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2713:

1. *Republic Bancshares, Inc.*, St. Petersburg, Florida; to engage *de novo* through its subsidiary, Republic Bank, F.S.B., St. Petersburg, Florida (in organization), in operating a savings association, pursuant to § 225.28(b)(4)(ii) of the Board's Regulation Y.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, May 4, 1998.

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*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-12192 Filed 5-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

### Formations of, Acquisitions by, and Mergers of Bank Holding Companies

The companies listed in this notice have applied to the Board for approval, pursuant to the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841 *et seq.*) (BHC Act), Regulation Y (12 CFR Part 225), and all other applicable statutes and regulations to become a bank holding company and/or to acquire the assets or the ownership of, control of, or the power to vote shares of a bank or bank holding company and all of the banks and nonbanking companies owned by the bank holding company, including the companies listed below.

The applications listed below, as well as other related filings required by the Board, are available for immediate inspection at the Federal Reserve Bank indicated. The application also will be available for inspection at the offices of the Board of Governors. Interested persons may express their views in writing on the standards enumerated in the BHC Act (12 U.S.C. 1842(c)). If the proposal also involves the acquisition of a nonbanking company, the review also includes whether the acquisition of the nonbanking company complies with the standards in section 4 of the BHC Act. Unless otherwise noted, nonbanking activities will be conducted throughout the United States.

Unless otherwise noted, comments regarding each of these applications must be received at the Reserve Bank indicated or the offices of the Board of Governors not later than May 29, 1998.

**A. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis** (Karen L. Grandstrand, Vice President) 90 Hennepin Avenue, P.O. Box 291, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55480-0291:

1. *North Country Financial Corporation*, Manistique, Michigan (formerly known as First Manistique Corporation); to acquire 62.5 percent of the voting shares of North Country Bank-Southwest, Scottsdale, Arizona, a *de novo* bank.

Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, May 1, 1998.

**Jennifer J. Johnson,**

*Deputy Secretary of the Board.*

[FR Doc. 98-12083 Filed 5-6-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6210-01-F

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### Agency for Health Care Policy and Research

#### Contract Review Meeting

In accordance with section 10(a) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), announcement is made of the following technical review committee to meet during the month of May 1998:

*Name:* Technical Review Committee on the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research SBIR Topic 1000—Assisting Purchasers to Use Information on Health Plan Performance.

*Date and Time:* May 18, 1998, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

*Place:* Ramada Inn, 8400 Wisconsin Avenue, Conference Room: TBA, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

This meeting will be closed to the public.

*Purpose:* The Technical Review Committee's charge is to provide, on behalf of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) Contracts Review Committee, recommendations to the Administrator, AHCPR, regarding the technical merit of contract proposals submitted in response to a specific Request for Proposals regarding the AHCPR Research Topic 1000, SBIR—Assisting Purchasers to Use Information on Health Plan Performance, that was published in the Commerce Business Daily on January 20, 1998.

The purpose of these contracts is to study and identify the information about health care plan quality and performance needed by purchasers and to consider if the information required varies by type and size of purchasers: e.g. individual vs. corporate consumers (large and small). In Phase I of the SBIR program, contractors are to examine, evaluate, and report on the scientific, technical and commercial merit and feasibility of a proposed research or R&D plan related to the above-described topic. Reported findings under Phase I will be considered in determining the availability of funds for the proposed research or research and development as Phase II.

*Agenda:* The Committee meeting will be devoted entirely to the technical review and evaluation of contract proposals submitted in response to the above-referenced Request for Proposals.

The Administrator, AHCPR, has made a formal determination that this meeting will not be open to the public. This action is necessary to safeguard confidential proprietary information and personal information concerning individuals associated with the proposals that may be revealed during this meeting, and to protect the free exchange of views, and avoid undue interference with Committee and Department operations. This is in accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., Appendix 2, implementing regulations, 41 CFR 101-6.1023 and procurement regulations, 48 CFR 315.604(d).

Anyone wishing to obtain information regarding this meeting should contact Sandra